

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correct improper multiple dependencies and to put the application into better form for examination.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #39,491
Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

MKM/ka
1906-0118P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s): VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 [or claim 5] wherein the analysis of the errors involves principal component analysis for each cluster (local or fuzzy local principal component analysis) to produce a subspace representative of each cluster.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 [or claim 9] comprising extending the model using new data to add new nodes to the tree.

11. (Amended) A method of representing a data element derived from an object or image by processing signals corresponding to the object or image, the method comprising expressing the data element in terms of a representation derived according to [any preceding claim] claim 1.

15. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1 involving data derived from an image or images in a sequence of images.

16. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding claim]
claim 1 wherein the object or image corresponds to a person or a
face.

19. (Amended) A method of matching or classifying a query data
element derived from an object or image by processing signals
corresponding to the object or image, the method comprising
comparing a descriptor of the query data element according to claim
17 [or claim 18] with database descriptor elements according to
claim 17 [or claim 18] using a matching function.

20. (Amended) Apparatus set up to execute a method according
to [any preceding claim] claim 1.

22. (Amended) Computer program for executing a method
according to any one of claims 1 to 16 or 19.